



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services



M. Jodi Rell  
Governor

Peter H. O'Meara  
Commissioner

Date: October 2, 2009

To: Private Provider Executive Directors, DDS Executive Management Team and DDS Staff

From: Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara *Peter H. O'meara*

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Emergency Incident Command Team has been collecting health information regarding the H1N1 influenza virus. The DDS Incident Command Team continues to monitor information from the Office of Governor M. Jodi Rell and the Department of Public Health (DPH). As this information becomes available, it will be posted to the home page of the DDS website at: [www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds). It is important that everyone have access to the most recent DDS and statewide information. DDS Health and Clinical Services Director Doreen McGrath put together the following information to help guide you in managing H1N1 issues.

This fall, there is going to be two different types of influenza viruses: seasonal influenza and the novel H1N1 virus. Vaccines are recommended for both types of influenza. Seasonal Vaccines are currently available through an individual's healthcare provider and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) anticipate the H1N1 virus vaccine to be ready for distribution by mid to late October. However, the vaccine will be in limited supply during the initial phases of distribution.

As a result, on July 29, 2009, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued recommendations for priority groups to receive the novel H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available sometime in mid-October. The priority groups for vaccination are as follows:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children less than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

H1N1 vaccines for DDS consumers will be obtained through their community based physicians/practitioners, and will be administered in the priority order established by the CDC. Public and private service providers should clarify with consumers' community based physicians/practitioners whether or not an individual is considered a member of one of the priority groups noted above

Public and Private Service Providers should:

- a. Identify their consumers who fall into the vaccination priority groups and based on that...
- b. Contact the community based physicians/practitioners to inform them of the number of clients needing vaccination.

DPH has not included staff serving DDS consumers in the category of healthcare personnel. Staff should obtain their vaccinations as any member of the community would--through their community base physicians/practitioners or community based immunization programs.

Information on flu prevention, surveillance, and treatment is available on the CDC and DPH websites: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu) & [www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph). As is the current practice, all questions or concerns related to an individual's health care should be directed to the primary care physician/practitioner.

DDS appreciates your attention to this matter and if you have any additional questions, please contact your Regional staff. Remember, it is important to monitor the DDS Website, DPH Website and the CDC Website on a daily basis.

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